THE WEEKLY COMMERCIAL

A LARGE SHEET CONTAINING ALL THE
CHOICEST NEWS, MISCELLANEOUS, LOCAL
AND AGRICULTURAL INTELLIGENCE,
AND VALUABLE READING
FOR THE FAMILY.

TERMS OF THE WEEKLY:

New Year (in advance) $1 50
In Clubs of Ten 1 25

☞ Communications intended to call attention to, or procure insertion of, Notices, Reviews, &c., of Books, Pamphlets, Periodicals, &c., will be regarded as advertisements, and must be paid for accordingly.

☞ Letters on Business, Subscriptions, &c., should be addressed to the Publishers.

COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh.

The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. VI.—NO. 45. WEEKLY EDITION. SEPTEMBER 11, 1869.

OPENING RALLY.

REPUBLICAN MASS MEETING

SPEECH OF SENATOR O. P. MORTON.

The Issues of the Campaign Fully Discussed.

Remarks of Hon. John Covode, Thos. M. Marshall and P. C. Shannon, Esqrs., to Enthusiastic Demonstration.

Senator Morton, of Indiana, who was announced to address the Union Republicans of Allegheny county, arrived on the night train, and even here at a quarter past three o'clock, and was met at the Union Depot by Senator W. Murray Shaw, Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, Hon. John Covode, Hon. P. C. Shannon, and others, the Committee of the Pennsylvania House, where he was called upon by a procession of prominent citizens for a speech, and, after our carefully reported remarks, he was escorted to the

GRAND STAND,

at Diamond square, by the members of the Second Ward Grant Club, the marching corps and gun squad attached to said club, which had been chosen as an escort to the distinguished gentleman from an hotel in Fifth Ward, Pittsburgh, and, on Fourth avenue, where they formed in their proper order, the torch corps and gun squad, equipped themselves with torches, and after a drill marched to the address stand on Fourth avenue. The marching corps was commanded as follows: Captain, John A. Hess; First Lieutenant, Thomas Gilmore; Second Lieutenant, John F. Hunter; Orderly Sergeant, C. S. Bernstein.

The Birmingham Silver Cornet Band, consisting of thirteen pieces, and under the leadership of L. Hilbert, had by the time arrived at Wilkinsburg, and by discovering excellent music soon collected a large crowd, at which point were added the torch corps from Wilkinsburg and the Second Ward.

Second Ward was signal, with a fatal glare fully mounted, and in charge of Capt. John S. Hogg. The Birmingham Cornet Band met the procession at Wilkinsburg, and added to the fun and a manner, on which was mounted "Second Ward Grant Club of Pittsburgh," "Pioneer Grant Club of Pennsylvania, Organized October 9, 1867," was carried by the club, which, between Grant and Smithfield streets, where several rounds of cannon were fired, during the halts on the other side of the river carried their torches.

The escort then countermarched and proceeded to the Monongahela House, where a grand of honor conducted the distinguished guests to the carriage in waiting for him, and the line of march for City Hall was then resumed up to the order first mentioned, including the Birmingham Band, which immediately preceded the carriage containing the orator of the day.

THE HALL

The hall was opened at seven o'clock, and in a few minutes thereafter was crowded to overflowing. The arrangements were most admirable, the officers, members of the press and gentlemen accompanied with ladies for whom there were several boxes and the parquette reserved, were furnished with comfortable seats. The ladies occupied the space at the right of the platform, which was separated from the main audience by the ingenious device of a chain of ropes and flags, and presented the most perfect order and decorum.

When the escort arrived at the hall, all the arrangements were completely filled and the room presented a solid mass of humanity. The audience was one of the most refined and intelligent, as well as one of the largest, ever assembled.

THE OFFICERS.

W. A. Fuertes, Esq., Chairman of the County Committee, called the meetings to order, and announced the following officers:

PRESIDENT.

Thomas M. Marshall, Esq.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

Hon. Jos. S. Wright, Hon. T. Williams,
Hon. E. Heyerdoel, Hon. J. Vincent,
Maj. S. H. Brown, Hon. L. Graham,
Hon. Jas. Marshall, Wm. Wilson,
Hon. J. W. Bunn, Hon. Simon Drum,
J. K. Shoenberger, Esq., Hon. J. Hay,
Hon. Wm. Lorimer, Hon. J. Bowman,
Hon. A. Caldwell, Hon. J. Ihmsen,
Hon. A. M. Brown, Hon. H. Howe,
Hon. Jas. Todd, Hon. Wm. Kerr,
Hon. Wm. Wilkins, Hon. Wm. Eichbaum,
Hon. Wm. Penn, Thos. Mellon, Esq.,
Hon. Jas. Kelly, Hon. Wm. Maxwell,
Hon. Wm. Kloman, Esq., W. Kemble, Esq.,
Hon. Jas. Park, Jr., Hon. Wm. Elliott,
Hon. Jas. Lowry, Hon. Wm. McCandless,
Hon. Wm. Robinson, Jr., Hon. Wm. Thaw,
Hon. Wm. Wilkins, Jr., Hon. Wm. Wilson,
Hon. Wm. Wilson

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1869.

THE RIGHT OF WAY.

If there is one question more than another that the public are alike interested in, it is in the subject of right of way. The right to carry the products of the soil, of the mine and manufactory to the consumer, to accommodate the interests of producer and purchaser, to maintain uninterrupted the communication between the source of supply and the ever increasing demand which characterizes the progress of a people, outside with in the even argument. Whatever lessens the cost of transportation is alike beneficial to the producer and consumer, since it insures more uniformity paying prices to the producer and at the same time cheapens commodities to the consumer.

Where the facilities of transportation are of a character that enable the producer to calculate with certainty upon disposing of his products, he will be satisfied with and realize more from lower rates than the producer who experiences difficulty, or depends upon chance in getting his goods to market. In a word, cheap transportation is the great equalizer of prices. Anything calculated to interfere with or prevent the consummation of this desirable end is at war with the interests of the people, therefore every individual, state and local prejudice having for their attainment the aggrandizement of individuals at the expense of the community are to be viewed with distrust.

It is not very long since transportation was confined exclusively to the seas, lakes and great water courses. Until the age of steam navigation [illegible] was limited to natural channels, the sight of way was guaranteed to every man who could point the bow of a sailing vessel in any given direction; the great water courses bore their cargoes to the sea, and bore back on their bosoms the riches distributed by the sea to the inhabitants of the towns and cities built upon the coast. To this day, the natural highways of trade, the lakes and the great water courses, are free to all who choose to embark upon them. The interruption of a single aid to transportation, although a revolutionized public sentiment, and secured for itself exclusive privileges, has not changed what manifestly never was designed to be controlled by human power, namely: the laws of the tides and currents. These will have out channels of traffic in the future as they have in the past, and all efforts to obstruct their natural operations will prove not only abortive but injurious. Temporary local gains will only be secured at the expense of greater interests. But in this, as in every other matter in which she is concerned, Nature will right herself, restoring things to their proper order, and it may be at the expense of vast projects put forward in the interests of the time and treasure, the destruction of which cannot fail to cause privation and suffering.

When the right of way was secured for the locomotive, the mass were interested in the decision that afforded them easy means of communication and transportation, where hitherto traffic was scarcely contemplated. Regions lying between and removed far from the great water courses, were then lashed up out of the track of those who craved their products. The power that attended the route of hitherto inaccessible districts, tunneling mountains, spanning rivers, never pausing in its achievements until, within the past year, it has succeeded in bringing ocean within speaking distance of each other, has contributed largely to the desire of material in more respects than one. In our own country, the untapped projects of railway direction have secured more practical benefits to be within the past ten years than could have been accomplished in a century without the aid of the locomotive. In reflecting upon our present railway power, otherwise the instrument that has given form, plains, valleys, lakes and streams to one broad, comprehensive act, displaying the genius of a nation's progress. And as this age will continue to progress. We trust the friends of the western country [illegible] as much as the eastern have come in pursuits of our workshops. Here the right of way secures to mutual accommodation and comfort. Rights of way, in brief, are less an object for us as a people that we have come to regard a merely business enactment as perfect in its operations. But it has its use and abuse, precisely as all other human enactments and inventions.

When the right of way was first guaranteed to railroad companies, the directors met their efforts to the task of removing obstructions from the path of the locomotive. The policy pursued was such as to secure the good will of the mass. Nothing was done designedly in the outset calculated to injure the great avenues of trade and transportation. Competition with the great water courses was not seriously thought of, was not contemplated, in fact. The privileges secured to the locomotive in the premises [illegible] their fault. The vast interests involved have become inexpressibly [illegible] The policy of the railway magnates of the past day, and those of the past are entirely distinct and different. The projectors of the old railways were united in overcoming the combined opposition of the [illegible] waste of the nation. The projectors of the present day frequently exert their influence in such a manner as to mislead the public. Thirty years ago it was simply a question of right of way. Now it is a question of exclusive privileges. Nothing is more common at the present day than to find a railway occupying a valley with a river. The locomotive competes with the steamer. If accommodation we are told, reduces rates of freight. If by a competing line against the argument holds good. As long as the locomotive runs ahead of the steamer, and can afford to cross below it, and reach its destination in advance of the steamer and accomplish a second journey in the time occupied by the steamer in a single journey, the competition moves benefits to the public. The case is materially altered, however, where, assuming upon their privileges, the directors of a railway interfere with the free navigation of the water course by obstructing the channel with bridge piers. The facilities of railway transportation are built up in that case at the expense of the public. With every new bridge erected for the locomotive, an additional obstruction is placed in the way of the steamer and freighting craft. If the theory which the railway director of the present day pursues is carried out until every [illegible] granted by the right of way secures cost, the money we abandon the great water courses, and permit them to be dammed up, the latter. If we can substitute an artificial highway infinitely preferable to those fashioned by nature, we can afford to be independent of the great natural advantages employed by past generations. Otherwise we will have abundant grounds for viewing the disposition exhibited by the modern railway directors with distrust, since it displays an inclination to abuse the right of way. Let us examine the actual condition of affairs on the Ohio river to-day, where we have ample evidence of the injurious results attending the policy frequently pursued by railways.

In order that the uninformed may comprehend the true state of affairs on the Ohio, it is only necessary to premise the following facts. The width of the Ohio between Pittsburgh and Louisville varies from twelve hundred to two thousand feet. At certain seasons of the year the stream is navigable only by craft of light draft and tonnage. In the summer months transportation is confined exclusively to light craft; in mid-winter little or nothing is done. In early spring and fall, and sometimes in June, the condition of the river permits the navigation of craft of heavy draft. It is in these seasons that coal, the mineral which has made our city rich and prosperous, is exported in large quantities, from forty to fifty million bushels being transported to the towns and cities lying on the Ohio and lower Mississippi annually. The extent of the coal-field by which Pittsburgh is surrounded is from thousand square miles, equal to eight million six hundred acres. The actual amount of bituminous coal contained in this vast coal-field has never been correctly estimated. In addition to the upper seams opened and now being worked, other veins lie at the depth reached in English and French mines. The lowest estimate of the upper seams yields [illegible] an average of eight feet in thickness, give a total of 1,200,000,000 tons, which, valued at two dollars per ton, would amount to $2,400,000,000. This immense deposit really constitutes the wealth of our city. It is the great aid in our vast work shops. Without it Pittsburgh would have remained a city of small dimensions. The amount exported annually may be counted clear profit. Estimating the exportations by some alone at fifty million bushels, and averaging it at thirteen cents per bushel, we have an amount of $6,500,000. This estimate, we may add, is based upon the lowest figures. The prospects are that we will export upwards of seventy million bushels during the present year. In the transportation of this enormous amount of coal, three classes of boats are required, viz: model barges, boats and steam tugs, or tow boats. The "tows" are made up of fleets of barges and boats containing an area of from seventy to one hundred and fifty thousand feet, and containing from 100,000 to 250,000 bushels. The smallest "tows" made up of barges one to three lengths, are from one hundred and ten to one hundred and twenty-four feet wide, and from four hundred and eighty to five hundred feet long. The same barges coupled in two lengths, vary from one hundred and thirty-two to one hundred and forty feet in breadth, and are three hundred and fifty feet long. Fourteen barges lashed together in the regular method are one hundred and ninety-two feet wide, and four hundred and twenty feet long, and contain 300,000 bushels. The draught of all tows is seven feet. The actual running expense attending these fleets is very great, varying from $250 00 to $200 00 per day. Under the most favorable circumstances a loss of twelve hours' time costs the owners $150 00. If owners of one hundred tugs or towboats are registered at this port. Scarcely of them are employed exclusively in the business of transporting coal to the towns and cities on the lower Ohio and Mississippi. The actual cost of the barges and towboats employed in the trade cannot be less than $10,000,000. It is unnecessary to dwell upon the fact that the enormous cost of transportation the lower will be the price of Pittsburgh coal at points where it is in demand. And we may add that it is in demand throughout the West and Southwest, wherever gas is employed as an illuminator. To follow out the trade in all its ramifications is more than we have time or space for. The ten thousand miners employed in our coal mines through the incentive as well as accessories of life to hundreds of thousands in the West and Southwest.

Some seventy miles below us, the Ohio is spanned by a railroad bridge, the channel open for steamers not less than one hundred feet wide. Though the confined water way, though the river is two and below is upwards of twelve hundred feet wide in low water, the fleets of coal intended for consumption below must pass. Whatever have the passage of these fleets interrupts trade, imposes additional risks upon the owners, and enhances the value of coal at the point of consumption. The cases have not been rare when, with all the advantages of daylight in their favor, the most experienced pilots have lost barges of coal worth from five to twenty thousand dollars by collisions with the piers of the Steubenville bridge. No owner or pilot attempts to run the bridge at night. Experience has taught them to calculate the probable time of reaching the bridge, when they tie up, and prepare to pass it the following day. Latterly they have adopted the plan of taking down a portion of the tow below the bridge, and returning for the remainder. The lowest estimate places the actual loss incurred in the landings caused by the Steubenville bridge at $50,000 annually. Including the tear and wear of the tugs and barges, the loss of time of the tugs and barges, the delay in reaching their destination, we will leave it to the reader to infer the interest he has in the interest to extend to securing the safety of the navigation, not those resulting from collisions, the amount annually lost to the owners may be estimated at $100,000, which may be safely to assume the shape of a tax imposed upon the coal trade of Pittsburgh by an interested distribution.

Some months ago at a meeting held by the leading river men, manufacturers, merchants and professional men of this city, a Committee was appointed to present a memorial to Congress praying that a law be passed to prevent the construction of bridges in the Ohio river with less than two hundred feet of a clear water way. The memorial received the signatures of an extensive and influential list of names, and was forwarded to the Capitol of the nation. Congress appropriated funds for removing obstructions from the Ohio, but failed to perceive the importance of preserving the great natural water courses. In the posture of affairs, the committee agreed to compromise the matter. Five hundred feet was enough a law limiting the channel space to four hundred feet. But even this concession was not sufficient. Finding the firmness of the opposition Congress adjourned.

As a result of the discussion, we have now the partially completed bridge at Fairmount, and another at Bellair. The latter bonds a span three hundred and fifty feet long. The Ohio is about twelve hundred feet wide at Bellair. The bridge at Fairmount has a span three hundred feet long the remainder being two hundred feet. The river at this point is fifteen hundred feet wide.

In constructing these bridges, the direct one of the railways interested gave no consideration to the interests of navigation. The site of the bridge at Parkersburg, in particular, is calculated to impose a barrier to navigation worse than the obstructions interposed by the Steubenville bridge. The location of the longest span, instead of being guided by, are directly opposed to the interests of navigation.

All these structures are built in accordance with the provisions of the act of 1862, which authorizes the narrow limit of three hundred feet. It has been demonstrated that one-five hundred feet in length can be built as easily, comparatively speaking, as those now obstructing the Ohio, Tennessee and Mississippi. The question has been refused by the ablest engineers to a mere matter of cost. The sum of $1,200,000 would be more than sufficient to construct a bridge with a span of five hundred feet. The difference on this sum would be $271,000, $29,000 less than the amount now imposed upon the coal interest of Pittsburgh alone in consequence of the obstruction interposed by the Steubenville bridge.

Here is a question that demands the careful consideration of the public. Upon the coal fields of Pittsburgh depend in a great measure our prospects and future progress. The importance of the subject is apparent at a glance. The six thousand miners engaged in our coal mines, who are supplied from our manufacturing and commercial establishments, the thousands of hands employed in our boat yards building barges and steamers, are not the only ones interested in the decision of this important question. If right of way is permitted to take precedence of navigation, the vast lumber interest, which is only second to the coal interest, will suffer still further impositions. The facts we have set forth are sufficient in themselves to arrest the attention of every thinking man in the country. The time has arrived when the question should receive the earnest attention of Congress, and to its immediate interference, where it most concerns, we look for action that will relieve from obstruction our great natural highways of internal commerce.

Fragans of the thirty Spanish gunboats are completed and await their armaments. The other fifteen will be completed by the 1st of January. Although they may receive their armaments, it is not believed that they will be permitted to depart. This is the point over which the Cubans in New York and Washington are keeping a sharp watch, in the belief that Spain will not receive her gunboats until after those guns which created the necessity for their construction shall have ceased to exist.

The Democratic victory in California results to the smallest proportions imaginable. In San Francisco the Republicans began the Democratic majority for Wright, which carried the State by a few hundreds. Even should the Legislature be Democratic, there is nothing to show that the popular vote has materially changed. But little more than half of the vote was cast in the state.

THE FAMILY OF GENERAL RAWLINS.

The last moments of Gen. RAWLINS were embittered by the reflection that he left his family "paupers." These were his own words. He had worn himself out in the service of his country, winning distinction by the sheer force of his character and great abilities. He was as unselfish as he was patriotic. He might have hoarded himself with riches, but though always poor, he took nothing but his scanty pay. In any light the character of General RAWLINS shines with a lustre which nothing but the absolute purity of the natural quality can impart. The apprehension which encumbered his last moments showed how modest he was. He had done his duty, and had no thought that his services engendered a claim on his countrymen either in behalf of himself or his family. But the case is otherwise. The family of the dead Patriot will be cared for. Already a movement is on foot to [illegible] the grounds of the bitter apprehensions which disturbed his latest moments. It would be a disgrace were Gen. RAWLINS's family to suffer for anything which as any will supply. It will not be. The hearts of the people, more especially the old army, are moved instinctively on this point, and the movement which has been started in New York to present Mrs. RAWLINS with fifty thousand dollars should not languish an instant. All over the country live and grateful contributors will come forth—so that the spirit of the dead Secretary will look down from above on no paper family of his, nor on a country ungrateful for his great services.

The prospects of an active fall trade are apparent, even at this early a date. The remarkable industrial efforts put forth by the American people since the close of the civil war are evidently about to bear abundant fruit. For the past four years we have been assimilating in the field, forest, mine and factory the properties [illegible] by the great conflict. In [illegible] energy our whole commerce, which is likely to be the last to improve, we have made substantial progress. More land is under cultivation than ever before, and even the South is recovering much of its former prosperity. The [illegible] cultivation are, that owing principally to the advanced price, more money will be realized from the cotton crop than in any former year, while the yield of rice and sugar promises to be satisfactory. With the exception of corn, the crops in the North and West are above the average, and there will likely be a large surplus of breadstuffs for exportation. Our country possesses advantages for a prosperous fall trade never before known. The opening of the Pacific Railroad and the rapid increase of railroad and water transportation are signs that cannot be mistaken. The Mississippi grain movement is assuming vast proportions, and public advices are being received from the great exchanges to be delayed from the increasing movement of our interior lines of river and lake navigation. All these facts warrant anticipations of a more favorable season than has been known for some time past.

About a month ago we stated that Judge [illegible] Supreme Court, early in the coming winter. A few days since the Philadelphia *Press* said it was requested to correct the report and state that Justice Grier did not contemplate resigning. A law passed at the late session of Congress provides that after the first Monday in December next any Justice, of the age of seventy years, may retire from active duty on the remainder of his life, to be [illegible] annually, receive the $10,000 a year. It is said that Judge Grier will avail himself of the provisions of this law, early in the coming winter. It is probable that there would have been no such technical denial as the *Press* was called upon to print. Justice Grier, we feel confident, is ready to avail himself of the provisions of the law, and will resign at the earliest practicable moment. The public are not concerned, nothing will be the same as resigning. It will no more have its services. It and will be vacant and the President will fill it by making a new appointment. It seems to be understood that Justice [illegible] Bradley, of New Jersey, will receive the appointment.

Two hours every night was removed as to the fate of the victims of the Avondale mine disaster. An entrance was effected into one mine, and more than two minutes bodies were taken out—a terrible holocaust. The scene is described as harrowing in the extreme. The event has thrown not less than five hundred widows and orphans upon public charity. Happening as it did on the heel of a protracted strike among the miners, the disaster has occasioned the necessity for relief, which only a concerted effort in parts distant from the scene can afford. Plymouth, where the Avondale mine is situated, is on the west bank of the Susquehanna river, twenty miles northwest of Scranton, and six miles from Wilkesbarre. The catastrophe has filled the Wyoming Valley, in the heart of which the town lies, with gloom and suffering. Touching the causes, the details are meagre, but when they come to be fully ascertained it will not be surprising if they arise chiefly to a disregard of precautions and agencies which science has demonstrated, are essential to the safety of human beings engaged in deep mines.

What is the use of an Income Tax Law which men like Asa Packer, worth Twenty Millions of Dollars, can elude by paying the paltry amount of Eight Dollars and Ninety Cents? The law, it has been supposed, was made to reach men with heavy incomes as well as those who are blessed with small ones only. But Packer has found a way to get around it, while the great mass of honest people, who have but small incomes, only sufficient, with the closest economy, to live on, pay to the last cent. Marvellously proper man, some people may think, is this Asa Packer to be Governor of the great State of Pennsylvania, but such is not the opinion of the honest, taxpaying people, as the October voting will show.

The Account Current posted by the Hon. T. J. Bigham, honestly published, shows very clearly how Asa Packer, the Twenty Millionaire, People who pay their taxes like honest men will be greatly assisted in forming their opinion of the Democratic candidate by the light which Senator Bigham has thrown on the subject. It is the best specimen of book-keeping that has been produced in many a day, and as an answer to the conundrum, How can a man with Twenty Millions of Dollars get off by paying only *Eight Dollars* and Ninety Cents taxes? it will be particularly appreciated by those Democrats whose constituency is against the blooded bonifaciers!

The collection of the Public Debt for the month of August, was altogether unexpected, considering the amount of interest paid since the previous statement. Gen. GRANT has been in office five months. It took a month to get under headway—yet the public debt has been reduced nearly Fifty Millions of Dollars. There is no other mystery about this than something like honesty in collecting and disbursing the revenue, with a firm hand holding the retrenching knife. It was to this work that Gen. GRANT dedicated his administration, and most nobly is he living up to his promise.

Asa Packer must be mum in proportion he is rich. Though worth Twenty Millions of Dollars, he manages to pay taxes to the amount of Eight Dollars and Ninety Cents. He professes to have no income, and the United States Assessor can find only one or two gold watches on which he is taxed by assessment.

A most gossipy clandestine marriage took place in New York, last week. The bride was the daughter of a leading banker, and the groom are commencing on the Hudson, she obtaining leave to return to the city on pretense of visiting. The Romeo was a much young man, obnoxious to the old fellow, and for them forbidden to pay his attentions to the fair Juliet. The pair were married at the office of the fashionable lawyer, in rich traveling suits, and directly after sailed for Boston, where they are spending the honeymoon with some of the gentleman's friends.

The public will be pleased with the report that Gen'l [illegible] has ordered a stop to the sale of arms and ammunition from the arsenals to the management of Ku-Klux-Klan organizations. The present sharp competition between the trunk roads in and to Pittsburgh has resulted in a generally low rate of passenger fare. Cincinnati is now but one cent [illegible] any one expects from it.

Abraham Cowdery, a gentleman formerly well known outside of Pennsylvania politics, and sometimes called "the screw-bolt man," is about to establish a daily paper in Philadelphia, in the interest of his friend and patron, Senator Cameron.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

In Hong Kong, about the middle of July, the thermometer stood at ninety during the night time. The foreign residents there wear light linen clothes, which they have to change three or four times during the day, they perspire so freely. They also suffer much with prickly heat and boils. The American steamers from California now arrive out on time, which is a great blessing to the American residents, who are always anxious for their arrival. One of the foreign residents of Hong Kong astonished the natives lately by his appearance on a velocipede, the first ever seen in the country; it made their eyes stick out to see the curious-looking machine and rider going over the road.

A drunken man in Dayton, a few days ago, made a desperate effort to keep on the side walk, but failed. At last he started out into the street, saying: "There, now! go in the street if you want to!"

One of the most marked illustrations of the change which has taken place in the way in which good men regard certain things is afforded by the following sentence from the diary of the Rev. Samuel Seabury, of Ledyard, Conn., father of Bishop Seabury, of Connecticut. He says: "The ticket 1,500 in the Light House and Public Lottery of New York, drew in my favor, by the blessing of Almighty God, £30, of which I received £25, there being a deduction of £5 ten per cent., for which I have reason to my gratitude my thanks and praise to Almighty God, the Giver of all good gifts."

Last week the snow sheds over the Sierra Nevada Mountains took fire and before the fire was extinguished over two miles of the wooden tunnel was consumed. The trains were detained three days, and fully a thousand persons are thirty miles of those snow sheds over the mountains every foot of which is liable to catch fire and burn up at any time. Three days' detention to the through trains already of those sheds, and the longer they stand the dryer they become, and consequently the more liable to catch fire.

There is an important arrangement about being consummated by the gas companies of the Ohio valley, by which the Ohio River Coal Company contracts to take the total production of the Kanawha Salt Company, which will give them the control of the market.

The capital invested in railways in the United States is nearly four times that of all banking business on banks. The total of this latter is [illegible] national banks; [illegible] state banks, and [illegible] savings banks—in all [illegible] per cent. The capital—from [illegible] to [illegible]. The cost of the railroads [illegible] per mile, and the total [illegible] The earnings [illegible] per cent. on the capital—from [illegible] to [illegible]. The cost of the

Weekly Commercial.

"LET US HAVE PEACE."

The Attorney General's Opinion in Virginia.

The conservative papers of Virginia are greatly pleased at Attorney General Hoar's decision respecting the test oath. The statement in Hoar's letter to President Grant that "the people themselves regard the Fourteenth Amendment as settled" will have been one of the most influential passages ever practised on a religious people." In words and letters that the effects of Mr. Hoar's decision will be almost visible in the unusual energy and earnestness with which all branches of industry will be pursued, and enjoy "Let us now go to work, and see if the condition of the country will grow in good." The Richmond Dispatch declares that the President has never performed any of his progress in Virginia, and it commends the people of that State to turn their whole attention and energies to again their industrial as well as State interests, and to put as much capital as possible to pay their debts. The Petersburg Index says the future destiny of Virginia is now in the hands of its own citizens. The spirit in which the approaching reconstruction having been recognized by the government, it rests upon them to manage their own affairs, and let all the world see that Virginia, with all her losses, has resources left sufficient to meet the obligations justly imposed upon her. The Petersburg Index says the people of Virginia "are willing to pay their debts." The Petersburg Express says that the "decision" which has been "suffocating the people of Virginia" since July last has been "lifted and dispelled," And it says in the distance of the prosperity of Virginia's material and industrial interests—even under all the embarrassments which oppress us." The Richmond Daily Dispatch says, since the decision of the opponents of reconstruction "have vanished."

The Evening News says, an unfettered, unrestricted ballot is now the right of every man in the South, and Mr. Walker and his colleagues outside the vicarious question of the reconstruction of the States, have left the people to work out their own salvation. The Republican party is impotent for further mischief. The days for bad men and bad measures are numbered. The Republicans are now left into self-defence. They have been overthrown in their own strongholds, and the work of destruction is complete. Henceforth each will be left to work out its own salvation. The Democracy are now in power, and they will be held responsible for such measures as may be enacted. The Richmond Whig says that the Democratic party has now the power to control the legislation of the State, and it is to be hoped that they will not abuse it. The Whig says that the Democratic party has now the power to control the legislation of the State, and it is to be hoped that they will not abuse it. The Whig says that the Democratic party has now the power to control the legislation of the State, and it is to be hoped that they will not abuse it.

DEATH OF A REMARKABLE MAN.

Sketch of the Original Queer Character in the United States.

Portland Putnam, a man of most remarkable habits, died in New York city on the 29th day, in the 84th year of his age. He was made and has fortunes with a feeling that he merely rent, and that life is a loan to all young men. He was born in Maine during the year 1785, of respectable parents, and when young-ish grew to be a large owner in Bangor lumber, which he sold out, and removed to New York in 1832, and engaged in the commission business, which he continued for a number of years, and then retired from active business, and has been living about three years on Fifth avenue, near Thirty-fourth street. He married in New York in 1833, and prospered until 1857, the year of the outbreak of the panic, when during the course of a few weeks he lost $200,000. He opened a confectionery establishment on Broadway, and while on the road to amassing a considerable fortune he became restless, sold out and went to Europe. He was absent about two years, and returned to Broadway, for which he paid $5,000 a year. He made a great deal of money, but soon tired of the business, and sold out the entire stock of goods to a man named Smith, of the same name as one of the proprietors of the Astor House, and then sought assistance from his friends, and in one opened a saloon on Chambers street, where he remained a short time, and then started a restaurant on Broadway, which he continued in running and dancing, a regular "corker" being constantly engaged. During the three years that followed, Putnam nearly recovered all he had lost, and in 1866 he contracted to the Italian opera company, and was the proprietor in the occupancy for some public speech-makers to rent an Italian opera House. This he continued for one or a dozen years, when he gave up the business, and since then has been living in private style, all the best operas of the season being produced. But it would not pay, and after struggling with adverse fortune for three years he failed, and the fortune built in the saloon business was gone. He was then a resident of some friends in then opened a saloon at Bloomingdale, where he remained some months, and then started his former connections in Broadway. He was then poor in pocket—in fact, he was not worth more than $1,000, but one night luncheon, and the establishment's and once all his money and property. Disheartened by this blow he declared he engaged in business. This was in the fall of 1868.

HEROIC DEAD.

The American Roll of Honor.

The War Department has issued the eighteenth and nineteenth Rolls of Honor, containing the names of soldiers who died in the line of the American Army. The former contains the names of 10,000 persons, the names of 15,000 being unknown. The list contains interments in national cemeteries in Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Indiana, Arkansas, Missouri, and in some of the local cemeteries of the Northern States and Territories. The reason why so small a portion of the graves could be identified must be looked for in the fact that the battles were generally fought in almost open with only temporary breastworks, or with none at all; that these battles were usually made at a very early period of the year, and that the ground was often in the hands of the enemy for a considerable time after the action, which, of course, it could not be expected that any permanent marks of identity would be maintained. The volume increases the total of graves now in the national cemeteries to about 80,000. Of the occupants of these graves the names of about 30,000 appear as known, or identified by name, leaving 50,000 as "unknown." It is supposed there yet remain to be found the records of about 25,000 graves of deceased Union soldiers and prisoners of war, making an aggregate of 80,000 graves of the occupants of the national cemeteries (about half of greatest), if ever, be recovered. The Department does not publish a statement of the Rebel dead of some of the bodies of deceased Union soldiers and prisoners of war whose remains have been removed to national cemeteries in the Southern and Western States. Eighty-three thousand eight hundred and forty-seven bodies have been removed from different localities to twenty-four national cemeteries.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

A Coach Robbed to Unit of Thirty Thousand Dollars in Gold.

A Montana officer has arrived in Chicago with the arrest of some six or so accomplices of the leaders of the robbery, in that line of business.

The Wells & Fargo coach, which left Helena, Montana, on the 20th ult., on reaching Blinds Prairie, a station about forty miles north of Carroll, about midnight on the 21st, was stopped by eight men closely masked. One of them ordered the passengers out that they could not be identified by the robbers, and then proceeded to the treasure box, from which he took $30,000 in gold. A passenger named Hall, who was on the coach, was then ordered to the front of the coach, and the treasure box was then opened, and the contents, consisting of $30,000 in gold, were taken out. The passengers were then ordered to get in the coach, and the robbers rode off in the direction of the mountains. The passengers then proceeded to Carroll, and reported the robbery. The coach was then sent back to Helena, and the robbers were pursued by a party of citizens, but they escaped.

A WITCH IN THE BOSTON Advertiser

makes the following statement concerning the Eyrean Water: "Some thirty years ago I heard this useful story of incest from an Englishman of the very highest character, mental and moral. He narrated to me the facts concerning a lady of his acquaintance, who, with her husband, resided in England, and within the past few years has been transferred to an English woman who married her husband's brother, and who, with her husband, resided in Virginia. The Germans now going on will probably forbid the possibility of one to whom they have made a present of them will be a witness of the last to accept.

STATE POLITICS.

Democratic Victory in Huntingdon County.

The most important election in Huntingdon county to be given to one Jimmy Kerr, a whisky seller, who ran on that one issue. He is a Democrat, and was elected by a majority, of course, and the office, we believe, is county treasurer.

They have a Republican ring in Huntingdon county, which has heretofore controlled the county elections, and the late Republican county convention, between the two Republican factions, and a motion was adopted that "the delegates to the convention are authorized to name the successor of the county committee." [?] Another motion for the adjournment of the convention, Chairman Isaac, who was one of the leaders of the ring faction, refused to entertain the motion, and appointed a committee to wait on the other faction and request them to return to the hall. The latter refused to do so, and proceeded to nominate their ticket, which was done in a very short time. The ring faction then proceeded to nominate their ticket, which was done in a very short time. The ring faction then proceeded to nominate their ticket, which was done in a very short time. The ring faction then

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1869.

TERMS:

[illegible]

THE PUBLIC MUST CHANGE ITS NOTE OR THE BANK MUST.

The critical readers of our paper ought to be pretty well prepared, regard to the unanimity of the Democratic nominee for Governor. We have now, however, procured some new evidence of his skill in electing sessions, but will very briefly refer to the private hereditary mode before indicating our readers with it. Asa Packer was one of the thirty-five anti-Douglas delegates from Pennsylvania to the National Democratic Convention in April, 1860, and during that memorable convention at Charleston, Baltimore and Richmond, did everything in his power to defeat the Democratic party and bring on the rebellion headed by Jesse Dozen & Co.

As has been fully explained by Captain R. H. Reeves, and not denied by any one, Mr. Packer united the nomination of Douglas and continuity supported Buchanan and Lane in 1860. His influence during the war was entirely with the Copperheads, all his surroundings were of the extremest pro-slavery character. Vallandingham, when driven from home by the loyalty of the Buckeye State, sought refuge on the banks of the Lehigh, and at the home of this same Asa Packer. At a still later period, when the Confederacy was crumbling beneath enemy moves inflicted by the Union arms, he went to Europe to avoid seeing the miseries inflicted upon his rebel friends.

In filling the Union army, the professional opinion of his special friend, Judge Woodward, failed to act with the acts of Congress, and the inexcusable word on the ground in Carbon county had to resort to bounties to volunteers, and of course a county tax had to be assessed. The ease now of the burgess of Mauch Chunk, serving under the autocracy of an oath, enlisted the personal property of Asa Packer, not at $50,000,000, but at $2,000,000. The illegality section of the act of May, 1841, gave him the right of appeal to the County Commissioners of Carbon county, who in that case would have heard his own statement under oath, and reduced the valuation accordingly. The law gave him this right. His own personal, political friends were the administrators of the law. Did he, like an honest man, seek redress in this way? Thousands have had resort to this simple and efficacious remedy of a wrong. No! He pretended that he had removed to Philadelphia—was, as he said, domiciled at the Merchants' Hotel, in that city. His taxes for county, school, borough, county and State purposes amounted to $12,500. A goodly sum we admit, but only at the same rate the poorest miner in his employ or pays on his property. Asa Packer's house, furniture, family, appurtenances, to all appearances, remained at Mauch Chunk, as they had done for thirty years before. His own political friends could not see this trumped-up removal as a genuine one, and refused to evade its taxation. The case went to Court. Twelve times were retained to enforce the collection by the county and borough authorities. This resulted in a compromise, by which he engaged to pay the taxes of 1867, and the authorities let him off in the future, on the ground of his payment of his personal taxes in Philadelphia.

We have before us the certificate of Mr. W. F. Smith that he has carefully examined the assessments of the Sixth ward, Philadelphia, where Mr. Packer claims his residence in, from 1866 to 1869, and that Asa Packer's name only appears for one year, to wit: 1867-8. The other five years are all blanks. In 1867-8 his name appears on the tax list as follows: First, his salary as railroad president, $2,000; second, money at interest, $61,500; third, gold watches, 2. The whole tax would probably be $32.50, instead of $32,500 at Mauch Chunk. And having accomplished his purpose by getting off the assessor's books at his own proper home, he unceremoniously disappears from the tax records of Philadelphia, and since this generous millionaire is a wandering carpet-bagger, and pays taxes nowhere.

This, however, is not the whole of the affair. We have also before us, as we write, the certificate of Lottie N. Keasbey, that Asa Packer's return to the Assessor of the United States for internal taxes in one gold dollar, and that the income tax upon which amounted to the enormous sum of $9.05. This blasted Republican "waste over $10,000,000," as the Chairman of the Democratic Committee certified to his Allegheny County Committee two days since, pays no personal taxes in Pennsylvania, and only $9.05 to the United States internal Revenue. If he did not hurt the rebels much during the war, certainly he will not help the soldiers and sailors much during peace.

Asa Packer's friends boast that he gave a half million to the church for sociology, and that he gives $20,000 annually to run the party machine in the State, and this year is to give them one hundred thousand to elect him Governor, and yet all that ever rumor has credited him with contributing to put down the rebellion, is the paltry sum of $90, though for two years past he has not paid one cent of personal tax in the borough, county or State, which he resides, and only the paltry sum of $9.05 to the United States. These certificates are left at the office of the Commercial to be seen by any Democrat who questions these statements.

CROPS AND PROSPECT WHERE WATER.

The surplus of the agricultural and all large population of the Eastern and Middle States, we suppose it may be called a surplus—annually divides itself into two grand classes. One of these strikes out boldly for the new fields open to energy and industry at the West, while the other seeks the comparatively safe and old fields of their native States. No full blooded American farmer boy agrees to a farm less than a hundred acres, and as the old homestead will not bear a subdivision into half a dozen tracts of this extent, the surplus of the boys move to the West or cities, leaving the home farm in possession of some member of the family. This is the general movement of our farming population, and it increases in extent yearly. The profits of the small towns and country villages, now that banking has gone out of fashion, also gravitate towards the cities or turn their loose monetarily in the direction of the setting sun.

We rather pity the young men from the country—farm or village—who set themselves down for life in a great city. In nineteen cases out of twenty their notions come to naught. They would be great merchants, business men, or financiers, and their fortunes from a five months' at a commercial college grind them a nir about in the busy hive, where all but the busy is reflects disappointing the most eligible one competition. For every one that succeeds, a hundred may be pointed out who have failed. They become in time the meek dependes of a business or mercantile association, with no future before them in life beyond the shelves and counters of their all imposed prison. This is a sad calling to the life of a vigorous young American, whose early years were passed on his father's farm—but it is the story of thousands.

The other class of our enterprising and ambitious young men—for these are qualities common to them all—pursue a much wiser course, when they launch out for a career in the great West. Their mission is to do something towards the development of the sleeping resources of our country, and in its accomplishment they find health and independence certainty, and possibly wealth. They are expanding and growing while their brethren in the overcrowded are dwarfing and stereotyping. This is the history by the of thousands and hundreds of thousands of young men who start fairly and evenly on the race of life, some of the same general capacity and whose ambition is to achieve a modest independence and a private place among their fellows.

As we pass from view or settle our attitude hearts for the West and the millions who carry themselves in a great city no matter how high their hopes and cannot their purpose, *fail*. The exception is no class to failure, while in the other it is exception. It is the race of the one class to degradable practical results—as would an force upon our young readers in the country, and their lonely advisers, who are just now contemplating the first grand move in life.

The West is the place for the surplus agricultural population of the East. There are as glorious opportunities of success today as there were when Chicago was a log swamp, and Milwaukee, St. Paul, Omaha, or Kansas City were names unknown. Land is a solid, substantial, tangible possession, for the proper hands it never decreases but always increases in value, and by proper hands we only mean industrious hands, backed by something in the way of brain capacity. Not brain power, either, such as is necessary to extract a living and secure independence from our Pennsylvania hills or the rocky soil of New England. It is a fact that no sober, industrious man, starting poor in life, goes West and lives and works in the West, without vastly improving his condition. The exceptions are hardly exceptions—they are misfortunes. There are as great opportunities for wealth and competence now as ever, and the young man who is pondering whether or no he will waste vitality in a fruitless struggle in a great city, should bear this fact closely in mind, and act upon it. Railroads in the West are in advance of settlement, and all the great inconveniences of early pioneer life have vanished. Farms, the development of which will prove the social and pecuniary occupation of a life time, may be had for the smallest outlay, and in fact for no outlay at all. The young man who knows how to work and will work—possibly the theatrical youth who is now remembering a commercial college training—if he can glue himself upon a tract of land in the West, with enough of capital to carry him through half a season, has fallen the first step to sure pecuniary independence.

These considerations we commend to the young men who are flocking to the city from the country, and whose daily applications at store rooms and warehouses are making them subjects of solicitude. Let them buckle on the armor of enterprise and industry, and with willing hearts and stout arms, the West invites them to a future that is almost beyond the reach of the ordinary speculations of life.

THE NEW CLAIM TO VIRGINIA.

The opinion of Attorney General Hoar, on the questions raised by General Canby in Virginia, in regard to the administering of the test or "iron clad" oath to the members elect of the Legislature, was made public in Richmond on Saturday, and, we presume, may be considered an adjustment of the question that will prove generally satisfactory to the people of that State.

The Attorney General regards the Legislature of Virginia recently elected as merely provisional in its character, at least until Congress shall approve the new Constitution as republican in form, and shall have restored the State to its proper place in the Union. But in order that this may be accomplished, certain preliminaries are essential, viz: The ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment. To accomplish this, it is necessary the Legislature should meet, and the Attorney General is therefore of opinion that it may come together, organize and act upon that amendment. But this done, the Legislature exhausts its gratuitous powers and cannot, without violation of the Reconstruction laws, be allowed to transact any other business, pass any act or resolve or authorize to assume any other functions of a Legislature, unless the members shall have previously taken the test oath. In brief, therefore, the Legislature may assemble, ratify the Fifteenth Amendment, but this done, the test oath is to prohibit should other legislative business be contemplated. Neither can any officer except the Governor. Attorney General—enter upon the duties of his office without taking the oath, while the military government continues.

But all this is changed as soon as Congress approves the new Constitution of Virginia. Then, the provisions of that Constitution will determine the qualifications and duties of all officers elected under it, and, says the Attorney General, "it will clearly not be in the power of Congress to impose any requirements or additional qualifications upon them (the Legislature and State officers) different from those which, under the Constitution of the United States, may be required in all the States."

We presume these practical results will flow from this opinion. General Canby will immediately issue his proclamation announcing the result of the election such of the State officers as can take the test oath—Governor Wagner for instance—will be inducted into office; the Legislature will be convened, and after ratifying the Fifteenth Amendment, and possibly electing United States Senators, will adjourn until Congress shall have adopted the Constitution, and admitted the State to its proper place in the Union.

Those who hold that the test oath should be demanded of members of the Legislature are conclusively answered in the part of the Attorney General's opinion which shows that while the reconstruction laws give authority to the district commander to remove any disqualified civil or military officer in Virginia and detail United States officers to execute the laws, they have certainly do not contemplate any legislation by a court from the army or by other appointees of the military commander. In that case the legislature would not be a body representing the people of Virginia, but merely the United States authority in the State, and, Mr. Hoar quaintly observes—"I do not see that Congress can undertake to furnish the State with a suitable legislature to start with, or to exercise any control over its composition which could not be exercised over subsequent legislatures."

We think this is a happy way out of the difficulty. If we interpret the Attorney General's opinion as rejecting the views of the Administration, it seems clear that Congress desires to enforce the exceptional legislation of Congress in regard to reconstruction, with generosity and moderation, in the spirit of something universal and merciful in its fullest extent, as a return for universal suffering and good faith.

PRAGUE.

Prague, the capital of the ancient Kingdom of Bohemia, is just now the scene of an imposing religious and political demonstration in commemoration of the burning of John Huss, the Reformer, and one of the earliest opponents of the assumptions of papal Rome. It is participated in by delegations from France, England and other countries, but for the most part is made up of representatives of the Sclavonic nations. This may account for the fact reported by telegraph that the celebration is political rather than religious, and seems to have an anti-German tendency.

The labors of John Huss in Bohemia, in the fifteenth century, with those of Wycliffe and the Lollards in England, and Savonarola, in Italy, were so many preparations for the extended religious movements, which, under the leadership of Luther, Melancthon and Calvin, culminated in the great religious reformation of the sixteenth century. Huss was born one hundred and ten years before Luther, and his martyrdom—for he was a martyr if there ever was one—took place seventy years before Lutheria was born. He graduated at the University of Prague in 1396, when twenty years old; the years afterwards began to lecture on theology and philosophy, and four years later—in 1402—was installed as a preacher in a chapel at Prague which had been established for the purpose of enabling the people to hear preaching and the Scriptures in the Bohemian tongue. At this time he became the head of a party of young private and scholars, who meditated reforms in doctrine and discipline. The close relations between the universities of Prague and Oxford had brought the former city into an acquaintance with the views of Wycliffites, and Huss was not slow to embrace them. He commenced preaching reform in the church with the utmost boldness—arraigned the misconduct of the clergy—denounced the despoiling of the churches of useless ornaments that the poor might be fed, and called upon the secular officers to punish the open vices of ecclesiastics. In a treatise addressed to the Pope he insisted upon the right of the people to have spiritual instruction, and to use even the works of unbelievers, if their own faith remained unharmed. The cry of heresy was raised against Huss, he was summoned to Rome, condemned as a heretic, and compelled by the church to leave Prague. From this time until the close of his career, his life was a ceaseless warfare against the corruptions of the Church. He denounced auricular confession, the veneration of images, prayers to the Saints and Virgin, and prayers for the dead. He asserted the right of conscience as against the edicts of Popes and Councils. When the books of Wycliffe were incensed by the Church authorities, he declared—"we ought to read and not burn the books of heretics, if there is anything any truth in them." He was again summoned to Rome, but took no heed of the order. He preached in the cities to immense crowds, but pestilence could not restrain the bitterness of his invective. He was put under the ban of the church, signified by a treatise demonstrating that the Papacy began to exist at the time of Constantine—that it was of no more sacred origin, and that its usurpations threatened to annihilate and so destroy the Gospel. His sermons and essays are all marked by the same earnestness and fiery indignation. His destruction was resolved upon, but it could be executed only by the aid of the grossest treachery that history records. At the General Council of the church in 1414, at Constance, Huss was cited to appear, and trusting to the safe conduct of the Emperor Sigismund to and against the advice of friends, he resolved to obey and defend his cause in person. Pope Jonas, on his arrival at Constance, welcomed him with a fraternal greeting. "If Master Huss had killed my brother," said the Pope, "I would think it my duty to pardon the least injustice to him during his stay in Constance." A month later Huss was in prison in a Dominican convent, and was afterwards transferred, heavily chained, to another prison. His trial before the Council commenced June 5th, 1415, six months after his arrest. He frankly admitted some of the charges—one of them was appealing from the Pope to Cæsar—but others he denied. He refused to retract, saying in reference to the false charges, he could not retract what he had not said, nor ought he to retract what he had said until its falsity was shown. The threats and entreaties of the Emperor, the subtleties of the ecclesiastics, and abundant promises of favor, could not shake his resolution. An ingenious formula was drawn up which might enable him to overcome his scruples, but he promptly rejected it. On the 6th of July, 1415, he was sentenced as an incorrigible heretic, and given over to the secular arm. While bound to the stake, he was again tempted to abjure his faith, but he only replied by prayers. As the fire was kindled he began to sing with a loud voice, "Jesus have mercy," and only ceased when he was suffocated by the rising flame. When the fire had ceased the ashes of the pile were gathered and cast into the Rhine, all traces of the event were carefully obliterated, and to this day the exact spot remains unknown.

But the persecution and faith of John Huss did not die with him. A century later they were revived and reinforced by the giant mind of Luther, and to-day, in some form or other, constitute the ruling sentiment of the intellectual world. And what a mockery of the facts of history was there in the careful annihilation of even the ashes of the martyr. To-day his memory is celebrated at the scene of his early studies, by a convocation of hundreds of thousands, representing all the nations of Christendom, while of the popes, emperors, kings, princes, cardinals and priests, who lured him to his death, through the vilest treachery, we have scarcely a record. Their infamy is all that has preserved their names to posterity.

THE UNITED STATES CUBA SPAIN.

Secretary Fish has let enough out to render it pretty certain that the belligerency of the Cubans will be recognized within the next ninety days. But it will be done by the Administration supported by a majority of the Cabinet, in opposition to the views and wishes of Secretary Fish, who holds that the act will seriously weaken the ground of our Alabama claims against England, and pretty certainly get us into a war with Spain. Mr Seward, it is said, has been firm in opposition to recognition, on the ground taken by Secretary Fish, but it has for some time been evident that the tendency on the part of the administration was to manifest, in some tangible manner, its sympathy and the sympathy of the American people for the Cubans in their struggle for independence from Spanish dominion and misery. In Secretary Fish's outgivings as an amphibious hack writer, the only activity which has for some time been going on in our navy yards, the movements of the monitors from Mound City to New Orleans, and other preparations, as if our navy might have active employment on the ocean. Out of such a settlement would come, if not Cuba actually an American possession, at least the reimbursement of the cost incurred by us. Subsequent diplomacy would have to settle how far our claims against England had been prejudiced. It is quite evident that Gen. Grant does not intend to be influenced by any force which others may have on that score. In this the American people, who have not forgotten the history of their own struggle for independence, will warmly support him. We have not much to fear from Spain. There might be some question as to the course of England and France, but we think not. Both have strongly urged Spain to dispose of Cuba to the United States, but it is not likely that either of these nations would have much sympathy with her in any difficulty into which her folly may lead her. And England might possibly have other reasons for keeping hands off, in the fact that we might improve the opportunity to collect that little Alabama bill "in kind," as Mr. Seward fairly warned her, and somewhat exhaust our hordes northward. France would have nothing to gain, and Emperor Napoleon plenty cold why she, too, would let Spain alone.

THE "TRUE STORY" IN ENGLAND.

If not Mrs. Stowe certainly her publishers will be gratified by the attention he showed upon the Byron scandal in England. The leading journals have discussed it, and while they all regret the publication as manifestous, their estimate of its truthfulness does not vary very much. The *Daily News* is the only paper that has a word in defense of Mrs. Stowe; it says she has done nothing more than make a contribution to the casuistry of history, ignoring the fact that something is also due to public decency. The London *Times* positively gives us the average of intelligent British opinion on the subject. It points out the supposed defect in the statement of the solicitors of Lady Byron, that while they discredit they do not contradict the story. The *Times'* own explanation is that Lady Byron was the victim of a self-imposed delusion. It cannot conjecture how she came by it, but it was first imposed on herself and then on Mrs. Stowe. It is no softened or thing, the *Times* argues, for unhappy wives to have suspicions of exceptional enormity and this hypothesis accounts for Lady Byron's early doubts of Byron's sanity, and her low opinion of his morality, communicated to Mrs. Stowe. The *Pall Mall Gazette*, hailing the presumption on the statement of the Solicitors, says the inference is that Mrs. Stowe's statement is correct, but that much more remains to be told. The *Post*—the organ *par excellence* of the British aristocracy—is naturally indignant at the publication, and very severe on Mrs. Stowe. Its characterizes it as "a distillation of vindictive outrage on the dead—and a disregard of the feelings of the living."

Wallace Bowser, the author, now in his seventy-fourth year, and as a promising and literary man in England since 1823, likely to have exceptional opportunities of forming an intelligent opinion on the question, constitutes the weight of his testimony to disprove Mrs. Stowe's narrative. Mr. Bowser's explanation is that the alienated conduct of Lady Byron towards her husband was the result of her father's prosecution, backed up by some odious story—very probably that of the wedding maid "from in a garret and bred in a cellar." He also thinks—and this is a strong point in estimating the weight of testimony—that the conduct of Lady Byron in buying up the private memoirs of her husband and destroying them, destroys the value of her own evidence, because it deprived Byron of the opportunity of self-justification, and therefore should have deprived his wife, or his wife's friends, of the right to advance fresh charges.

In one first publication of the memoirs of Lady Byron, we advanced the theory that she was the victim of delusion, and this seems to be the conclusion of the most respectable journals of England and America. This must be accepted as the solution of the truth of the "true story" admitted, unless we accuse Mrs. Stowe of distorting what Lady Byron confided to her, and in the excitement of the moment accepting something with as if as the unqualified truth. In the statement of the Solicitors they seem to intimate that Mrs. Stowe's recollections of the conversation with Lady Byron, held thirteen years ago, may have been at fault, and their assertion of incompleteness may refer to Mrs. Stowe's way of telling what Lady Byron confided to her, as well as to the essential facts of the narrative. They protest against Mrs. Stowe's account as a gross breach of trust and confidence, as inconsistent with her own recommendations to Lady Byron, and as a violation of the express terms of the will. Under the circumstances no more explicit contradiction could have been expected from the solicitors, for it is natural to suppose that by the will they were debarred from entering into the discussion of the subject. Their duty now is to protect the memory of Lady Byron, and this they have done by showing that Mrs. Stowe's publication was in direct violation of her will. If this amounts to anything, it removes all responsibility for the publicity of the scandal from Lady Byron, and places it upon Mrs. Stowe, who disregarded the dying wishes of Lady Byron—as set forth in her will—in making a magazine sensation out of a confidential communication.

BRAIN FOOD.

No one thing so much affects the physical, moral and mental development of man as his diet, and it is an encouraging sign of the age that especial attention is being directed to the means which we employ for the sustenance of our system. The last number of *Hours at Home*, has an article by by J. M. Beard, M. D., which contains some interesting ideas upon this subject.

The writer confutes the generally received opinion that brain-workers—especially literary men—require less food and plainer food, and less sleep, than those engaged in manual labor. He claims that physiology and the experience of mankind teach that the former require the better food, and in greater variety and abundance than mechanics or laborers, and what is perhaps of as much importance as the quality of the food, is that it be agreeably served.

The following are some of the reasons he gives: Labor of the brain causes greater waste of tissue than labor of the muscles. Three hours of hard study produces more important changes of tissue than a whole day of muscular labor. Phosphorus, which is a prominent ingredient of the brain, is deposited in the urine after mental labor. And it has been shown by recent chemical examination of the phosphates deposited that it is possible to determine whether a person has been chiefly using his brain or his muscles.

The brain being the noblest organ of the body, the seat of the intellect receives a greater proportional amount of blood than any other part, and is, of course, correspondingly affected by the quantity and quality of nutriment which it receives. One-fifth of the blood goes to the brain though its average weight is but one-fortieth of the weight of the whole body.

The writer does not coincide with Prof. Agassiz in the opinion that fish diet is better adapted to supply the waste of the brain than a liberal variety of other alimentary substances, and especially of meats. "More phosphorus is afforded to the body than it requires when fresh, bread, fruit and husks of grain are used for food, and the excess is eliminated from the system. The different varieties of meat, besides containing nearly as much phosphorus as fish, has a greater per centage of nitrogenous substances, and a much less quantity of water, and stood necessarily be more nutritive for the brain as a source of power generally.

THE COUNCIL IN ROME

A syllabus, prepared by the Pope and the College of Cardinals, European authority states, will form the subject of debate for the approaching Ecumenical Council. The Council will be urged to proclaim two dogmas of faith—the infallibility of the Pope and the spiritual and corporal assumption of the Virgin Mary. These articles of belief are to be proclaimed with great solemnity, and then announced by the Pope in person, and engaged to believe. It is held at Rome that it is entirely competent for the Council to make the temporal power of the Pope as a dogma, as that power is the necessary result of infallibility. The Pope recently expressed to a foreigner of rank his regret that neither a schismatic or Protestant Bishop or preacher had offered to take part in the Council. He expected Protestants from Germany and the few Puseyite doctors from England, who are reported as coming, will not make up for this deficiency.

Rev. Dr. John Cumming, the learned and eloquent divine of the Presbyterian Church of England, who has written much on the prophecies of the speedy destruction of the world, proposes to accept the Papal invitation, but demands that, as a condition precedent, he shall have an opportunity of giving reasons for the faith that is in him, or in other words that he shall be permitted to address the Council upon the causes which originally divided the body of Protestant Christians from the Romish communion, and which still keeps them aloof. Dr. Cumming has written a letter to the *London Times* explanatory of his attitude, in which he states that he has addressed the Pope in canonical Latin to inquire what liberty of speech would be awarded to him before the assembly of the Roman Church. As yet he has received no reply. Undoubtedly a discussion of the character proposed by Doctor Cumming would impart a lively and powerful interest to the grand convocation, but we have no idea, however, that the good Doctor will be gratified by the concession of the privileges he demands. It would be found inconvenient in Rome.

The Irish school question comes up in pretty much the same fashion that it does in this country. It is a contest between the advocates of a national system and the Catholics, who favor a denominational system, but with this difference, that in Ireland a majority of the people are Catholics, and favor denominational education, while in this country an opposite state of facts exists. Cardinal Cullen, the Irish primate, has taken a daring step in the controversy, by ordering the withdrawal of all Catholic children from the National Model School in Dublin, and as a means to secure compliance with his request, has imposed on refractory scholars, or their parents, the severest spiritual penalties within his power to inflict. We all have an idea of how effective this sort of discipline is in Catholic countries. The "model" schools in Ireland differ somewhat from the national schools. Over the former the priests exercise the power and supervision of manager and patron, while over the latter these powers are exercised by commissioners appointed by the government. It is with these schools Cardinal Cullen proposes to interfere, by withdrawing all the Catholic children. The London *Times* very earnestly, and with some degree of bitterness, criticises the action of the Cardinal, and promises him that his proposals for denominational education at the public expense will be rejected in England, Scotland and Ireland, and what is of more account will only be mentioned in Parliament to be condemned.

While the English press is reviewing with complacency the probabilities of the separation of the British colonies from the mother country, the colonists do not lag behind in their desire for independence. We have noticed the movements to this end in the New Dominion, and we now observe that the same sentiment is making progress in Australia and New Zealand. These two colonies with capabilities for supporting a population of 50,000,000 have as yet less than 2,000,000 of inhabitants. In the last fifty years while only one million of British emigrants have settled in the British colonies in America, four millions have settled in the adjacent United States, and the continental emigration has been almost wholly to the United States. For every single emigrant family settling in America under the British flag, six families have chosen to settle under the Stars and Stripes. This statement is used in Australia as an effective support to the argument that politically and socially, an independent Republic of British origin and genius is vastly more attractive to the emigrant millions of the old world than are subordinate British colonies. We do not suppose this statement can be controverted. Organized movements are in progress in Australia and Canada to secure independence, and we cannot but think with very fair prospects of ultimate success. John Bull is viewing the question through the press, not as one of national pride but of dollars and cents, and it is clear that a prosperous Republic will be a far better market for his home products than languishing and lagging colonies. There is a stronger feeling to-day in the British colonies in favor of independence than there was in what is now the United States five years before the Declaration of Independence. It is openly discussed in Canada and Australia, while in the early period of our struggle many of the leading spirits in the conflict had a latent hope that the differences would be adjusted, and the colonies remain integral parts of the British Empire. The discussion in Canada has been stimulated by the progress of the United States, and by the belief that the only road to Canadian prosperity lies through perfect and complete self-government.

A BITTER feud is imminent in the ranks of the New York Democracy. The ambition of Tammany is without bounds, and the rural politicians are growing restive under the curb and bit. SWEENEY and TWEED—the latter anxious to succeed BELMONT—are the master spirits of Tammany, and have absolute control of it; they are working to obtain the State organization under their thumbs, and then they propose to swallow up the party in the Union, and run HOFFMAN for President in 1872, over whom by virtue of superior will and genius they have acquired absolute ascendancy. Tammany hates SEYMOUR, and it is said the feeling is returned. It was not the design of the Tammany managers that SEYMOUR should carry the State last fall, and his doing so was the result of miscalculation on the part of the Sachems. As it was they run him a good many thousand votes behind HOFFMAN, hoping he would lose the State and thus put HOFFMAN in the lead, as a prospective candidate. The rural Democracy are preparing to revolt against the rule of the city politicians; they feel that they are held in a minority in their districts by reason of the flagrant misconduct of the Sachems and the city ring. The State Convention to be held this month will determine who is to control the force Democracy in the future.

Now and then, through bribery or other corrupt means, an old hack obtains a nomination from a Republican convention. But is it an encouraging sign that Republicans, in numbers sufficiently great either to settle the question of election adversely or throw a doubt over the result, are ready to bolt such proceedings. A year of admonition and discipline of this kind will work beneficial results for the party and the State in the future. At the present time, there is a special reason why the old hacks should be beaten. Combinations have been entered into and objects are contemplated by the leaders who require the presence of these "old stagers." This is the explanation of these objectionable nominations. Republicans will do well to bolt outright and persistently oppose candidates of this description, even though presented by fifty conventions. A moral as well as political principle is at stake, imposing an obligation higher than any exacted by mere party allegiance. In different parts of the State there are old hacks running for the Legislature, pleading for the support of disgusted and high-toned Republicans. To such appeals a deaf ear should at all times be turned. We believe that this will be the case, and that when the election is over there will be a plentiful crop of candidates left at home as the surest way to serve the Republican party and benefit the State.

THAT the Southern planters, and of course the Southern people as a whole, are in a better condition now than they have been at any time since the spring of 1861, appears to be a conceded fact by all Southern writers on the industrial and commercial situation. They are free of debt; they have no negroes to buy, and therefore no necessity of adding to their landed property. The cotton crop this year is estimated at 2,500,000 bales. This is the lowest estimate, while the highest fixes it at 3,000,000. Taking the lowest figure, at twenty-five cents, the probable price, and the people will derive from this single branch of agriculture $300,000,000. A large portion of this amount will be required to pay for supplies, but there will be required, as heretofore, to pay the debts of the planters. The Selma (Alabama) *Times* has this cheerful view as to the probable disposition of the capital remaining in the hands of the planters.

"The increase sum can be devoted to building dwelling factories, mills, improving implements and machinery, opening new sources of communication, and to the development of the mineral resources of the country. The past year has one hundred and fifty millions in capital, and the present year will add fifty millions to it. Capital is now being employed in the development of the land and we have much more independent and the country more prosperous than ever before."

FOR a variety of reasons, the belief that Spain is destined, and before long, to lose Cuba, is increasing. The proposition made by Gen. SICKLES, whereby the United States should become mediator, and its virtual rejection by Spain, prepares the way for something more positive on our part, and betrays the madness of Spain. In the eyes of the principal nations, so far as their judgment can be ascertained, the total and permanent separation of Cuba from Spain is a fixed fact. We feel certain it will take place, and what is most significant, no one is deploring or deprecating it. On the contrary, both England and France earnestly advised Spain to make terms while she can; and most unexpectedly the sentiment of both of these countries is decidedly in favor of the acquisition of Cuba by the United States. But advice of this nature and the force of this kind of sentiment are wholly lost on Spain, and she is likely to be stubborn till there is nothing for her to be stubborn about.

THE Republicans of Lancaster have just emerged from a protracted and excited canvass conducted on the "Crawford County System," perfectly satisfied with its working. It has been urged that in heated contests this system would give rise to corruption and unfairness. On the contrary experience in Lancaster and other counties has established that it is the only one under which a fair and honest expression by the people can be obtained. The ring men don't like it, of course, bec. use under it their occupation is gone. The correct convention system, with the organized fraud styled "marking," has had its day. Republicans everywhere should resolve hereafter to support no candidate ground out by it.

THE Democracy in the Fifteenth Senatorial District of Pennsylvania are in trouble. The counties of Columbia, Montour, Northumberland and Sullivan met at Northumberland on Saturday, and by a vote of seven to five nominated THOMAS CHALFANT. Before the Chairman announced the result, CHALFANT and his delegates left the conference, when the Chairman announced there was no nomination made, BUCKALEW's friends, who remained, then nominated him for State Senate, so that the Democracy have two candidates in the field.

THE Philadelphia *Press*, Wednesday, says: "We are requested to contradict the rumors which have been going the rounds of many newspapers for some time past that Hon. H. C. GIBSON, in consequence of failing health, will resign his seat as Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. The Justice is at present enjoying good health, and has no intention of resigning his position." This certainly is so much in conflict with the information on which the original statement was based, as to admit of no other conclusion than that the distinguished Judge has changed his mind.

THERE is genuine eloquence as well as great encouragement in the statement which we receive from Wahington, that in the months of July and August this year the internal revenue receipts exceeded those during the same period last year rising $5,700,000. These figures reflect two things, the general prosperity of the country and the faithful enforcement of the revenue laws, for which blessings we are indebted to an administration devoted to the welfare of the nation.

THE Chambersburg *Repository* applauds the course of the Bedford county Republicans for refusing to support the nomination of ALEXANDER H. STUTZMAN for the Senate. This man, says the *Repository*, "has been a Senatorial disgrace to his party for the last three years, and it can do itself far more credit by defeating him than by returning him to Harrisburg. We hope it will do itself that honor at least."

Ignorance in Spain.

Those people who expect that the Spanish nation, now that it has thrown off the yoke of a profligate Bourbon queen, will rise at once to intelligence and the refinements of civilization, will read with surprise of the adventure of an English gentleman in that country, who has told his woes, after the manner of his countrymen, in the *Times*. This gentleman, Mr. Henry Jenckien, was assailed by a furious mob in the public promenade at Lorca, thrown down, stoned, hacked with knives, and beaten within an inch of his life. It may be imagined that he was, or was suspected to be, an agent of the dethroned monarchy. On the contrary, the attack was made on the theory that the foreigner was a "Tio del Sain," or grease-monger. The common people of Spain imagine that the fat of young children is necessary to sending telegraphic messages, being employed to lubricate the wires. They suppose that agents are constantly employed in kidnapping children for this purpose, and, as Mr. Jenckien spoke to a woman who was walking out with a little boy, jumped to the conclusion that he was engaged in the odious work. The *Times*, however, protests against this incident being set down to the special discredit of the Spanish people. It says:

"What are we, then, to think of the spirit-rappers and all the legion of their Americans and European imitators? What are we to think of the Mormons, the Jesuits, negratory bulls, guitars played by invisible agencies, and other such matters, for the authenticity of which men of the highest intellectual attainments have likewise vouched? What are we to say? Simply that to believe, and to believe what is least in accordance with reason, is the strongest proof of the necessities of our poor human nature. Child stealing in Lorca, spirit-rapping in New York or London, are but symptoms of the same infirmity."

The California Chinese.

Rev. Dr. ELLINWOOD, of Rochester, New York, writes to the *Evangelist* the result of his special inquiries concerning the Chinese in California. He finds them to be universally quiet and inoffensive, and all betake themselves to useful employment. He thinks they will soon begin to assimilate themselves to American characteristics. The Sunday schools open a new chapter in their history. He quotes from Dr. Eels the remark that "The Chinamen have just begun to find out that the Christian churches are their friends," "At the Sunday School," says Dr. Eels, "the usual plan is to employ a teacher for every two or three pupils. Even young lads and misses are in demand to teach the alphabet and easy words, which is for them, as well as for their pupils, is an admirable drill. The interest and docility of the pupils, mostly young men; the enthusiasm of the teachers; the fact that the leading Chinese merchants have been present at some of the sessions, to express on behalf of their country men their high satisfaction and gratitude—all these things are marvellous."

Looking Thirty Years Ahead.

A writer in *Appletons' Journal*, under the head of "By 1900—What?" undertakes to forecast the future social and industrial condition of the United States. He predicts that there will be no great war during the next thirty years; (2) that there will be an enormous increase of the wealth of the country; (3) that this wealth will be more equally distributed than it is now—that the rich will become very much richer, while the numbers of the wage receiving class will be largely added to. In other words, instead of a population maintained composed of the middle class, as is the case now, we shall have a very rich class and a great laboring though not a poor class; in short, that the middle class, so-called, will be almost all on the level to go into the masses or the rest of the population. The writer believes that the close of the century will witness great industrial disturbances unless the very rich recognize their social duties towards the rest of the community. All this may be true, and it is very good guessing; but then again it may not.

THE commercial mooring fever has broken out in New York. It has been ravaging the West for a long time, and has now broken through the Hudson-ring—if such a ring can be said to exist. It has assumed there a virulent form, as is evidenced by the large number of vessels now under contract for the Fall trade. The city pauses the hailstorm of applications for docks, and it is probable that before the end of the year the Legislature will be called upon to pass such legislation as will relieve the present embarrassments.

THE Commissioner of Indian Affairs has received a letter from Felix R. Brunot, William E. Dodge, and Nathan Bishop of the Indian Peace Commission. They are now holding their second "big council," The first was with the Arapahoes and Cheyennes; this time they are meeting the Kiowas and Comanches, in the southern part of the Indian Territory. They report that everything is progressing satisfactorily; that the Indians are peaceful, kind and earnest in their design to become civilized and respectable.

SAYS a New York letter: The competition between the rival railroads (the "trunk" lines) for western business continues quite lively. The New York Central and Erie are both running through in thirty hours to Chicago, but the Pennsylvania Central and Fort Wayne are accomplishing the feat in one hour less. The talk is that even this quick time will be reduced to twenty-four hours; also, that fares between New York and Chicago will be reduced to $20. This may do for the public; but what will the stockholders say?

A NUMBER of gentlemen in Chicago have had a meeting with the view to associating themselves together to purchase coal outside of the monopoly which controls the market. C. R. Farrell will be trustee, liberal co-operation being promised. The idea is to send a purchasing agent to New York, and the belief is expressed that coal can be delivered at $10 and $20 50 per ton. It is probable that coke, which is worth more than anthracite, could be delivered at that—possibly for less money.

REMOVAL OF DISABILITIES.

Important Movement in West Virginia in Favor of a Liberal Policy.

An important movement has been set on foot by leading Republicans of West Virginia, in view of the ensuing election, looking to the discontinuance of "War Legislation." An address has been prepared to the voters of Ohio county, "on Fing the "signatures of leading citizens and party men—"many of whom," as the *Intelligencer* remarks, "are known personally and otherwise in all parts of the State," and all of whom are declared to be among the best and foremost citizens. Their object is to speak in behalf of the party is attested by the fact that they are, mainly, the men "whose labors and contributions in times past built up the Union Party" in the country, and did much "toward creating and sustaining a sentiment of loyalty to the Government throughout the State during the war." The application of the test oath is discouraged as vexatious and unnecessary. "As regards the safety of our loyal people at this time," the address informs us, "even in the most exposed counties, our information impresses us with the belief that we can afford to inaugurate the necessary steps for discontinuing everything known as war legislation." "We cannot afford," says the address, "to keep a large body of our fellow citizens perpetually disfranchised, and thereby perpetually disaffected. Permanent disfranchisement is not in keeping with a form of government like ours," they add; "and were its continuance possible by the will of the majority, which it is not, the end could not be otherwise than disastrous to the public welfare." When the Republicans of West Virginia thus express themselves, certainly their opinions are entitled to weigh with their brethren out of the State. We shall watch with interest the progress of the movement, which appears likely to take a prominent shape and control the politics of the State.

Gold Redemption of Greenbacks.

In some quarters this question is discussed as though there was nothing specific and it depended on the construction of certain early laws of Congress. Those who take this view forget that the first act approved by General Grant contains the following words:

"For the question is now settled by *positive law*. The first act signed by President Grant (March 18, 1869) contains these words: 'That no order or pretext can doubt as to the *purpose* of the Government to discharge all its obligations to the public creditors, and to restore the currency, (*quoad*) the *sole profession* of the law, by virtue